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MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES.

Baltimore, December, 1886.

THE FORMATION OF A MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION IN GERMANY.

After much previous consultation an association of the teachers of modern languages in Germany has recently been established. On the 4th of last October, about one hundred and fifty university professors, school directors and teachers met in conclave in Hanover, pursuant to a call issued in March by the local *Verein für neuere Sprachen*, and organized themselves into an association with the informal title: *Verband der deutschen neuphilologischen Lehrerschaft*. The first two articles of the constitution adopted sufficiently describe the aim and scope of the society:

1. *Der Verband bezweckt die Pflege der neueren Philologie der germanischen wie der romanischen, und insbesondere die Förderung einer lebhaften Wechselwirkung zwischen Universität und Schule, zwischen Wissenschaft und Praxis.*

2. *Diese Aufgabe wird erstrebt: (a.) durch in der Regel alljährliche wiederkehrende Versammlungen, auf denen wissenschaftliche und praktische Fragen aus dem Gebiete der neueren Sprachen erörtert werden, (b.) durch Gründung von Vereinen, welche wieder unter einander in Verbindung treten, und welche die vereinzelt wohnenden Vertreter und Freunde der neueren Sprachen an sich anschliessen, und zuletzt (c.) durch gemeinsame Unterstützung aller auf die Hebung des neusprachlichen Studiums gerichteten Bestrebungen im In- und Auslande.*

The initial proceedings resembled closely the proceedings in New York in Dec. 1884 during the formation of the Modern Language Association of America. Similar confessions were heard of the defects of pedagogic methods, of the preponderance of the classical element in the schools, of the necessity for organization and combination; and the same desire was made known for independent relations toward the *Versammlung der Philologen und Schulmänner Deutschlands*, (an association

corresponding quite nearly to the American Philological Association,) while at the same time frank recognition was expressed for the eminent services of that body, and a wish to join with it in a friendly and generous rivalry in enlarging the boundaries of human knowledge.

The papers presented were of much practical interest and were warmly discussed. Dr. Ahn described to what extent the results of recent investigation should be utilized in the elementary study of the modern languages. He maintained that phonetics was an integral part of linguistic instruction, and that the leading principles of the science should be imparted to the student, in order to assist him in producing difficult sounds in foreign languages, while a detailed exposition of the system should be reserved for a later period. His conclusions were adopted by the convention: Dr. Klinghardt pleaded for more attention to the practical side of instruction in the modern languages, with especial regard to the study of the life and institutions of the various peoples; and to this end indicated the best available means. Prof. Körting presented an elaborate scheme for the organization of modern language instruction at Universities; and this topic with that offered by Dr. Klinghardt was reserved to be discussed and acted upon by the next convention. Prof. Trautmann asserted that glottal *r* was originally neither a French nor a German sound; that it appeared in France about 1650, and was transferred about 1700 to Germany; and that it is now rapidly crowding out lingual *r* in both countries. He added that certain sounds represented in English by *r* were really no *r* sounds at all, (try, shrine, driver, spur,) and in conclusion regretted the encroachments of glottal *r*, advised that lingual *r* should be taught for English and that the inroads into German of the obnoxious laryngeal sound should be duly checked. The convention theoretically agreed with the speaker. Prof. Marelle gave in French some illustrations of the method of teaching the pronunciation and modulation of that language by reading aloud.

A considerable amount of printed matter in the way of publisher's circulars, specimens of text-books, festal songs etc. was distributed at

the various sessions. Most noticeable were three *Festschriften* composed for the occasion: *Neuphilologische Beiträge herausgegeben vom Verein für neuere Sprachen in Hannover, Beiträge zur Geschichte der romanischen Philologie in Deutschland* by Prof. E. Stengel, and *Die Aussprache des Englischen nach den deutsch-englischen Grammatiken vor 1750* by Prof. W. Vietor.

The arrangements for the convention were admirable and the programme varied. The sessions, consuming three days, were held in the hall of the old *Rathhaus*, dating from the fifteenth century, but recently restored with considerable costly elaboration. Convivial gatherings were interspersed, including a welcome the first evening, a joint breakfast, a festal banquet, a *Kommers*, the *Bierzeitung* of which contained productions in Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Old French and Middle High German, a joint dinner including ladies, at which the Modern Language Association of America was cordially greeted and well toasted, and a final *Früh-schoppen*. The sights of the city were also thoroughly inspected, and by special permission of the emperor a complimentary performance of Shakspeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the royal theatre was tendered to the members of the association.

Among those present at the convention were Dr. Ahn, son of the well-known grammarian, Dr. Ey of Hanover, to whose efforts the conception and completion of the whole undertaking were largely due, Prof. van Hamel of Groningen, Holland, who received with the writer the compliment of an election to the society, Dr. Klinghardt of Reichenbach and Prof. Kölbing of Breslau, editors of the *Englische Studien*, Prof. Körting of Münster, Prof. Koschwitz of Greifswald, Dr. Krummacher of Cassel, grandson of the fabulist, Prof. Sachs, editor of the great dictionary which bears his name, Prof. Stengel of Marburg, Prof. Trautmann of Bonn, Prof. Wülcker of Leipzig and Prof. Zupitza of Berlin. The *Verband* numbers already upwards of 300 members, and the permanent success of the organization is already assured. The next regular annual meeting will be held in May 1887, at Frankfort on the Main.

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WILHELM SCHERER.

Stirbt mein Vater dereinst, der graue, reisige Nestor,
Wer beklagt ihn alsdann? Und selbst von dem Auge des
Sohnes

Wälzet die Thräne sich kaum, die gelinde. Völlig vollendet
Liegt der ruhende Greis, der Sterblichen herrliches Muster.
Aber der Jüngling fallend erregt *unendliche Sehnsucht*
Allen Künftigen auf und jedem stirbt er aufs neue,
Der die rühmliche That mit rühmlichen Thaten gekrönt
wünscht.

Who could have foreseen that Scherer should have described most effectively the impression caused by his own early death, when he closed his masterly representation of Schiller's heroic career with the verses of Goethe's "Achilleis" just quoted? And Scherer is mourned not only by the students of Germanic philology, but also by the educated of the whole German nation, which has lost in him one of its most gifted sons, one of its most faithful and enthusiastic interpreters.

It cannot be the object of these lines to present a biographical sketch of Scherer; a few data, however, will serve to describe his life, which, like that of many German scholars, was comparatively uneventful. It represents, nevertheless, a series of successes from the time when together with his teacher, Müllenhoff, he appeared as the joint editor of the *Denkmäler*, until, after having achieved the highest positions and honors, he died as one of the acknowledged leaders of his chosen science. Born and educated in Austria, he proceeded a young student of brilliant qualities to the University of Berlin, where Haupt and Müllenhoff, the representatives of Lachmann's exact school, determined his philological character. It is interesting and noteworthy that he had friendly relations also with Jacob Grimm, the patriarch of German philology. Scarcely twenty-five years of age, he was called to succeed his former teacher, Franz Pfeiffer, at the University of Vienna. With the re-establishment of the University of Strassburg, he was selected to become professor of German philology there, and from thence he was finally called to Berlin, where, after the death of Müllenhoff, he was the sole occupant of the same chair in Germany's greatest seat of learning. In all these different positions he gathered about him a number of enthusiastic pupils, many of whom are now teaching at